

2020 South Dakota State Historical Society History Conference
“Looking Back on South Dakota History with 20/20 Vision”
Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Pierre, SD

Presenter Biographies

LIZ ALMLIE

Liz Almlie has worked for the South Dakota State Historical Society as a Historic Preservation Specialist since 2011. She received her B.A. in History at Augustana College (now University), Sioux Falls, in 2008, and her M.A. in Public History at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, in 2010. She is presently serving as the state coordinator for the National Votes for Women Trail project of the National Collaborative of Women's History Sites and has written an article on stories of place in the South Dakota suffrage movement for a 2020 issue of *South Dakota History*. She is posting research findings on the blog site <https://historysouthdakota.wordpress.com/womens-suffrage-in-sodak/> and the Facebook page “Women’s Suffrage in SoDak.”

RENEE M. BOEN

Renee Boen is the State Archaeologist and Director of the Archaeological Research Center in Rapid City, a program of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Renee held almost every position at the Archaeological Research Center during her early career, including crew member, crew chief, principal investigator, curator/repository manager, and burial coordinator. She also served as the South Zone Archaeologist for Hell Canyon and Mystic Ranger Districts at the Black Hills National Forest in 2010 through early 2011. Then she held the position of Area Archaeologist/Principal Investigator at the Bureau of Reclamation, Dakotas Area Office for eight years. In October 2018 she came full circle back to the Archaeological Research Center as the State Archaeologist.

Her research interests include burial customs, tool stone identification, site management, and collection management and preservation. She is now building a strong team of knowledgeable archaeologists, supporting the preservation sites, artifacts, and records, and developing relationships with agencies and institutions.

CATHLEEN D. CAHILL

Cathleen D. Cahill received her PhD at the University of Chicago and teaches in the History Department at Penn State University. She is the author of *Federal Fathers and Mothers: A Social History of the United States Indian Service, 1869–1932* (2011), which won the Labriola Center American Indian National Book Award and was a finalist for the David J. Weber and Bill Clements Book Prize. Cahill is a social historian who explores the everyday experiences of ordinary people, primarily women. She is currently finishing her book *Raising Our Banners: Women of Color Challenge the Mainstream Suffrage Movement*. The book follows the lead of feminist scholars of color calling for alternative "genealogies of feminism." It is a collective biography of six suffragists through which Cahill explores the activism of women of color before and after the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

CATHIE DRAINE

Cathie Draine is a west river native. She and her husband, LeRoy, a graduate of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, have lived and worked in Spain, Africa and Indonesia. She was pleased when South Dakota Historical Press undertook the task of preparing the letters written by her grandfather, George Philip, for publication as “Cowboy Life, the letters of George Philip”. As she worked editing the letters, she gained an expanded appreciation for all the experiences of

her grandfather's long life - from orphan to cowboy to lawyer to a respected and important man in South Dakota.

In addition to editing "Cowboy Life" Cathie has published in Singapore, Indonesia and Nepal and has been a garden columnist for the Rapid City Journal for over 20 years.

KALYN EULBERG

Kalyn Eulberg is the Executive Director of the Casey Tibbs South Dakota Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre. Originally from Dupree, South Dakota, Kalyn is a graduate from Stanley County High School. After college, Kalyn moved back to the Pierre area to be closer to her family farm and ranch. Kalyn was appointed to her current position in 2019.

SEAN J. FLYNN

Sean J. Flynn is a professor of history at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD, where twice he has been awarded for teaching excellence. Flynn earned his BA at South Dakota State University and his MA and PhD degrees at Texas Tech University. He is the author of *Without Reservations: Benjamin Reifel and American Indian Acculturation* (2018) and *Chief, Marine Corps Warrior* (2003) which chronicles his father's aviation combat record in World War II and Korea and his POW captivity during the Korean War. Flynn is at work on a book about the New Right political movement in the Midwest from 1976 to the present.

JACOB K. FRIEFELD

Jacob K. Friefeld is a historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. His book, *Homesteading the Plains: Toward a New History*, challenges much of the traditionally accepted homesteading scholarship. His current research focuses on African American homesteaders in the Great Plains. He is coauthor of "Canaan on the Prairie: New Evidence of the Number of African American Homesteaders in the Great Plains" (Great Plains Quarterly, Summer 2019) and "African American Homesteader 'Colonies' in the Settling of the Great Plains" (Great Plains Quarterly, Winter 2019). Supported by grants from the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Friefeld has helped to preserve the history of six African American homesteader sites through the creation of a web-based archive and historic markers.

BENJAMIN F. JONES

"Dr. Benjamin F. Jones serves as South Dakota's 15th Secretary of Education. Ben grew up in Sioux Falls and De Smet and graduated from South Dakota State University. Upon graduation he earned his commission and served in the United States Air Force for twenty-three years in a variety of roles and locations that included teaching assignments at the Air Force Academy Department of History.

Returning to South Dakota in 2013, Ben became the dean of arts and sciences at Dakota State University where he facilitated the growth of the General Beadle Honors Program and expanded the role of the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts in the university and public outreach. A historian, he has authored, *Eisenhower's Guerrillas: The Jedburghs, the Maquis and the Liberation of France* published by the University of Oxford Press; contributed chapters or introductions to books about special operations; and ending the war in Afghanistan.

RUTH PAGE JONES

Ruth Page Jones received her Master of Arts in History from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2015, completing a thesis that studied rural women in South Dakota in the early settlement years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in German and Political Science at the University of South Dakota, followed by a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Computer Science at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Jones has written the chapter on School Suffrage for the upcoming book, "Political Equality at the Ballot Box," published in 2019 by the

South Dakota Historical Society. She has also been invited to participate in several conference panels in 2019 throughout the United States on the topic of Woman Suffrage. Since 2014, she has presented local history talks each year at the Dakota Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, receiving their Carol Mashek Endowed Award in Women's History for her 2018 paper on woman suffrage in South Dakota, and their Western Studies Student Award in 2015.

KELLY KIRK

Kelly Kirk is an Instructor of History and the Director of the University Honors Program at Black Hills State University. A graduate of Black Hills State University, she completed her graduate work at Montana State University Bozeman, where her research focused on gendered political experiences in the modern American West. Her recent publications have focused on the woman suffrage movement in Montana and the Black Hills. Kirk also directs the Veterans' Legacy Program, an interdisciplinary research project sponsored by the National Cemetery Administration, aimed at developing a broad collection of public history materials that tell the story of America's veterans buried in the five veterans' cemeteries in the Black Hills region.

ERIC STEVEN ZIMMER

Eric Steven Zimmer, Ph.D., works on a variety of digital, exhibit-based, and narrative history projects at Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. in Rapid City, South Dakota. His work has appeared in regional and national scholarly journals and media outlets, garnering several awards, including the Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation from the American Society for Environmental History. Zimmer lives and writes in the Black Hills, alongside his lovely wife, Samantha, and their dog, Nigel.